Victim Witness Assistance Program

VWAC NAME HERE
Victim Witness Assistance Coordinator for YOUR UNIT HERE

Victim Witness Assistance Program

- MCO 5800.14 created a “bill of rights” for victims and witnesses to ALL crimes under the UCMJ

- VWAP is the program which ensures victims and witnesses are aware of these rights and are able to exercise them

Victim Witness Assistance Coordinator (VWAC)

- Each battalion/squadron sized unit must have a VWAC
- VWAC is a POC for victims and witnesses who need assistance exercising their rights

MCO 5800.14: Victim Rights

- To be treated with fairness and respect for the victim’s dignity and privacy.
- To be reasonably protected from the accused.
- To be notified of any decision to dispose of an alleged offense at court-martial, NJP or ADSEP proceedings.
- To be present at all public court-martial, NJP and ADSEP proceedings, unless the court or legal advisor, determines that testimony by the victim would be materially altered if the victim heard other testimony at that proceeding.
- To be reasonably heard at any public proceeding involving release, plea, sentencing, or parole of the accused.

MCO 5800.14: Victim Rights

- To confer with the attorney for the govt in the case.
- To receive information about the conviction, sentence, confinement, and release of the accused.
- To be notified of the apprehension of an accused, the initial appearance of an accused before a military judge, the release of the accused pending court-martial, any escape of the accused, and the time and location of any trial, NJP, or ADSEP proceedings (including entry of guilty pleas and sentencing)

MCO 5800.14: Witness Rights

- To be treated with fairness and respect for the witness' dignity and privacy.
- To be reasonably protected from the accused.
- To be notified of any decision to dispose of an alleged offense at court-martial, NJP or ADSEP proceedings.
- To be provided information about the resolution of the case to include ADSEP decisions, any punishment awarded, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of the offender, if confined.
- To be notified of the apprehension of an accused, the initial appearance of an accused before a military judge, the release of the accused pending court-martial, any escape of the accused, and the time and location of any trial, NJP, or ADSEP proceedings (including entry of guilty pleas and sentencing)

MCO 5800.14: Treatment of Victims:

- Throughout and following the adjudication or other disposition of alleged offenses, all victims shall be treated as victims. The treatment of victims is independent of the results obtained by the military or criminal justice system or during the administrative process.

If you are a Victim/Witness and you have any issues regarding these rights or anything else you would like to discuss with the command and you are not satisfied with the response of your chain-of-command…

Contact me

- Name
- E-mail
- Phone

Hypothetical Issues of a Victim/Witness:

- Victim/witness is placed on legal hold against his/her will for an extended period of time
- Victim/witness desires access to counseling services and has not been provided contact information
- Victim/witness desires a Military Protective Order (MPO) be put into place against an accused

CAUTION:

- I am not your lawyer/counselor/chaplain
- No privileged communications
- Do not say anything to me that you would not say to the CO
- Anything you tell me is discoverable at a court-martial and could potentially damage your case